for sixteen hours. Employers put up great opposition to any further legislation. Large meetings of textile workers in Bombay demanded better conditions. It is significant that more than forty or fifty years had to elapse before one of their demands—compensation for injuries—was granted. A memorandum on conditions in factories was submitted to the Chief Inspector of Factories in England and it makes harrowing reading. Most factories worked from sunrise to sundown, including Sundays. Conditions were generally bad.

The next Factory Act was passed in 1891. It is noteworthy that, apart from the mass meetings of workmen in the 'eighties. Labour raised no voice of protest up to the beginning of the twentieth century. There was no channel through which grievances might be ventilated, and the strike as a weapon of defence was unknown. If there were a dispute and men downed tools, the employer had unfettered power to replace them by blackleg labour. It was a paradise for the exploiter.

The introduction of electricity into factories and the ravages of the great epidemic of plague in Bombay in 1896 led to a great increase in working hours. Some mills actually worked their operatives for continuous stretches of fifteen to twenty hours and in Bombay there were actual auctions of workers at street corners. But the plague also resulted in a thinning of the ranks of agricultural labour and their wages improved. Thus, there was less need to go to the town for work. The city workers began to feel more independent and class-conscious. They were no longer ready to submit to the old conditions. Disputes, morfe or less organised, began to take place and there was a general all-round improvement in wages.

From 1891 to 1911 there was no further factory legislation. It was a period of expansion and vast industrial development.